Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05
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----------104412 201604Z /72
O R 201325Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1986
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
COMUSFORAZ IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL OPORTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0266

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO
SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN PONTA DELGADA

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0190(DTG 220025Z MAR 78); PONTA DELGADA 0259
(DTG 172014Z APR 78)

1. ABOUT FORTY OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY RIOT POLICE SENT TO PONTA DELGADA FROM LISBON FOLLOWING THE ALMEIDA SANTOS INCIDENT CLASHED WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED TAUNTING FLA SYMPATHIZERS LAST NIGHT IN THE CENTER OF PONTA DELGADA. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL RDP RADIO REPORT, 11 DEMONSTRATORS AND 2 RIOT POLICE WERE INJURED IN THE MELEE. DURING THE CONFRONTATION, A SMALL BOMB WAS DETONATED UNDER A NEARBY POLICE TRANSPORT VEHICLE BLOWING OUT WINDOWS AT THE ADJACENT PONTA DELGADA POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND, IRONICALLY, AT THE FLA FREQUENTED CAFE ACROSS THE STREET.

2. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, THE TROUBLE STARTED WHEN NERVOUS RIOT POLICE ORDERED THE DISPERSAL OF A LARGE GROUP OF PERSONS WHO HAD GATHERED IN FRONT OF A PRIVATELY OPERATED RADIO STATION WHICH HAPPENS TO BE LOCATED AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE POLICE STATION. THE STATION HAD JUST CONCLUDED THE BROADCAST OF A
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TELEPHONE TALK SHOW DURING WHICH THE PRINCIPAL GUEST HAD VEHEMENTLY DEMANDED THAT THE RIOT POLICE BE SENT BACK TO LISBON IMMEDIATELY.

3. COMMENT: IF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GOP'S DISPATCHING OF A RIOT POLICE COMPANY TO PONTA DELGADA WAS TO MAINTAIN ORDER, THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE. WHILE THERE IS NO

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INDICATION YET THAT THINGS WILL GET OUT OF HAND, THE OUTSIDE POLICE PRESENCE IS WIDELY UNPOPULAR AND HAS PROVIDED THE SEPARATISTS WITH EXACTLY THE KIND OF PRETEXT FOR ACTION THEY HAD HOPED FOR. FLA YOUTH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE ANOTHER GO AT THE RIOT POLICE BETWEEN NOW AND THE SANTO CRISTO FESTIVAL IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO KEEP THEM HERE THAT LONG.
MACK

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